

At another time, on a long case, I was called upon at different times to nurse seven other members of the family, with grip, tonsillitis, etc. One had a light case of pneumonia, and a history sheet was needed for a week.

When pay day came (the family were abundantly able to pay) nothing was said by either party about the extra seven patients.

Some people think twenty-five dollars a week pays for every minute of the day and night for seven days, and that they are entitled to all a nurse can do in that time.

In our state (Iowa), when pupil nurses are sent out, the patient is expected to have the laundry done for the nurse, I understand, but public sentiment seems to be that a nurse who gets twenty-five dollars a week is expected to pay for her own laundry, be it done in the family or sent out. In three and one-half years I have never had a piece done in a patient's house, and have had the offer just twice.

N. E. B.

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#### WHAT IS THE NURSE'S DUTY WHEN DOCTOR IS CARELESS?

DEAR EDITOR: What is a nurse's duty when a doctor calls on a scarlet-fever patient and makes no change of clothing on going in or coming out, and, when a doctor's gown is offered him, says: "It is not necessary"? This has happened three times, and I have hinted and hinted about it. One doctor brings his medicine-case and unpacks it in the room, and takes his time to putting up the medicines, even staying much longer than necessary, visiting with the patient. He is the kind who does not love trained nurses to begin with; but even then is it the nurse's duty to let it happen every time he calls? What do other private nurses do? There must be other physicians like these. They seem to be common enough in the country towns.

IOWA.

[From the old-fashioned standpoint, a nurse should be silent; but we believe the time will come when a nurse will be expected to report such carelessness to the Board of Health. She is not serving the doctor, but the family, and she should have an obligation to the public.—ED.]

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#### THE ADVANTAGE OF THE THREE YEARS' COURSE

DEAR EDITOR: Upon reading Dr. Bristow's paper in the last number of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, and seeing the editorial call for expression from the rank and file as well as from superintendents, I

wish to express my conviction in favor of the three years' course of training. While it is true that the third year does not make a good nurse of a poor one, nor does it give her the instruction in the essential knowledge of practical work, still the responsibility which the third-year nurse has is of much benefit to her. She has more time to apply her knowledge and observe details, which can better be brought out in the hospital, with its numbers for comparison, than in the one case at a time of private work. Above all, it gives her poise. Personally, I am a college graduate, and so have spent four additional years in preparation for my life-work. I would not give up one of them, nor would I choose a training of only two years. To me the profession means more than a mere means of support.

SUSIE A. WATSON

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DEAR EDITOR: During the past year and a half a number of well known physicians and nurses in New York City and vicinity have been much interested in a small washing machine which is intended to wash only small articles, and is especially adapted to articles of a disagreeable or unsanitary nature. The process is entirely mechanical, it not being necessary for the hands to come in contact with the article, soap, water, or effete matter. It is often an embarrassing experience, when a nurse is called into the household of a strange family, to know what to do about such articles as bands, towels, and other small pieces, when they are in constant demand, and the supply on hand is small, as it is in many families of moderate means. Such articles are often not only disagreeable but unsanitary to have lying around until the arrogant maid-of-all-work condescends to attend to them; and I am sure it has been the experience of many trained nurses that when sickness comes to a household servants are apt to become disorganized and disgruntled, especially if extra work, such as washing, is entailed upon them. In many instances the washing of small necessary articles is by no means agreeable matter, whether it falls to the lot of the maid, mother, or trained attendant. Nevertheless, it is work some one must do. Physicians are cautious, and nurses become burdened with the responsibility, which should in no way fall to them, of providing some means for the care of such articles. In consequence, they are sometimes forced into a most unpleasant position, and complaints are unfairly made because, through no fault of theirs, affairs are not running smoothly. This little machine has been in use for a year or more in 'The Babies' Hos-